

HIGH SCHOOL SECOND RUNNER UP 2020

Bryn Schwartz Centennial High School

"Ultimately, for a society to function and progress, we must fully focus on the fight for a fair vote. With valiant women like Stacy Abrams leading the way, we will prevail, just like the valiant Suffragettes before us."



Valiant: possessing or acting with bravery or boldness. A quality like heroism that shines bright in our countries' times of darkness.

Valiance is something that I believe every woman who fights to protect our voting rights possesses. While it is hard to imagine a time when women in the United States could not vote, it was very much a reality. One of the most monumental efforts in our country's history, the Women's Suffrage movement, was started by women who valiantly fought for our right to vote.

Today, women are still valiantly fighting for voting rights. One woman's efforts in particular have recently gained national attention. Stacy Abrams was the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia in 2018 and narrowly lost, many believe, because of voter suppression and gerrymandering. In fact, Vice President Joe Biden told a recent African American Leadership Summit that "voter suppression is the reason Stacey Abrams isn't Governor." And, many others believe she should have won.

Instead of taking her loss as a downfall, Stacy Abrams launched Fair Fight, a new nonprofit organization focused on promoting fair elections in Georgia and around the country. Fair Fight is also encouraging voter participation in elections and educating voters about elections and their voting rights in order to ensure that everyone has a voice in our election system. Stacy Abrams' efforts to fight for voting rights shows textbook valiance. Her determination to bring awareness is bringing national attention to the issue, and it's working.

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I am very moved by her efforts, and hope to live by and learn from her wise words: "I live my life with an assumption that I have the right to do the things I think I should do, and that my gender and my race should not be limitations."